

MAINE FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

July 10, 2006

(approved on October 2, 2006)

Chair Jeffrey Cammack called the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission to order at 1:10pm in Florian Hall, Maine Department of Public Safety Building, 45 Commerce Drive, Augusta. Members present included Representative Richard Brown, Stephan Bunker, Chief Darrel Fournier, Robert Gardiner (for Charles Jacobs), Gerry Gay, Alex McPhedran, Senator Richard Nass, David Nicklaus, Joseph Thomas (for Chief John Dean), Leslie Wiles and Susan Pinette (staff). Members excused were Jay Bradshaw, Geoffrey Maker and Harty Norris. Members absent included Representative Patricia Blanchette, Senator Bruce Bryant, John Cannon, Representative Robert Duplessie, Edward Johnston, Charles Soltan, and David Wacker. Chief Wayne Werts of the Auburn Fire Department, Chief John Woulfe of the Rumford Fire Department and Steve Willis from Southern Maine Community College attended as guests of the Fire Commission.

A motion by Gerry Gay, seconded by Dick Brown, to accept the meeting minutes of June 5, 2006. The motion passed unanimously.

The Fire Commission extended their congratulations to Chief Cammack on becoming a grandfather.

Committee Reports

The Spring Conference Committee reports that plans for the 2007 Conference are moving ahead. The 2007 conference is scheduled for March 19th and 20th (Monday and Tuesday) at the Augusta Civic Center. The 2007 conference format will be similar to the 2006 conference with a few changes including shorter class times and more time to network. Plans also include a presentation on cyanide poisoning on Monday evening and the "Reading the Smoke" program on Tuesday morning.

The Residential Sprinkler Committee has not met recently but proposed the Fire Commission consider taking a leadership role in educating the fire service and the public on the benefits of residential sprinklers. Suggestions included offering a program at the 2007 Spring Conference and presentations at Maine Municipal Association (MMA) and the State House (Maine Fire Service Day 2007).

Copies of the 2003 Penflex reports on recruitment and retention and the Maine Fire Chiefs' Task Force Report (draft) on Training Facilities were distributed.

Steve Bunker has agreed to chair the Best Practices Committee. Nomination papers are available online and potential candidates can be forwarded to Steve. The Fire Commission can present Best Practice Awards as they occur throughout the year, with a final Best of the Best Practice awarded at the Spring Conference.

Old Business

Fire Commission members discussed the Maine Fire Chiefs' Report on Training Facilities and the next steps in the process. Members of the Task Force expressed their interest in continuing to work with the Fire Commission and move forward with the task force's recommendations. The Fire Commission considered a proposal to dissolve the existing Training Facilities Committee and replace it with a new 24-member committee. The new committee membership would include representatives from the Fire Commission and its constituents (to include, but not be limited to, MEMA, MEMS, MFT&E, Fire Chiefs, Legislature, state government, fire service, insurance industry and the public (public works, schools) and would report its findings and make recommendation to the Fire Commission.

A motion by Dick Brown, seconded by Gerry Gay, to authorize the formation of a new Training Facilities Committee and that this new committee adopt the Maine Fire Chiefs' Task Force Report on Training Facilities (May 2006) as its foundation. The committee will consist of a maximum of 24 members and will make recommendations and report its findings to the Fire Commission. The motion passed unanimously.

Fire Commission members finalized plans for the roundtable discussion scheduled for Tuesday, September 12th. This meeting will replace the monthly meeting. Members discussed the need to build on the positive momentum of the 2006 legislative session and to push forward with other important issues. Initially, five topics were identified for potential legislation in 2007-2008 and include recruitment and retention, training facilities, residential sprinklers, truss construction and PSAPS/dispatch centers. Members felt the importance of keeping these issues before the Legislature. Members also recognized the need to educate new legislators early in the session. At the September 12th meeting, the Fire Commission plans to invite 2-3 representatives from each of the fire service organizations and will inform them of the Fire Commission's intent to submit legislation in 2007-2008 on these five issues. The Fire Commission will seek input, suggestions and support and will also make available various documents prior to the meeting including the 2003 Penflex report, the Maine Fire Chiefs Task Force Report on Training Facilities, past legislation on truss construction markings and PSAPS/dispatch centers and the Scottsdale report on residential sprinklers. The Fire Commission agreed to limit discussion per issue to thirty minutes and to offer light refreshments.

New Business

The Fire Commission discussed the funding status of the grant money applied for in Spring 2006. Members agreed to follow up with MEMA and the federal delegation.

A Lewiston Sun Journal article on rural training standards was distributed to members.

Members were informed of a training operation being held in September on interoperability. The purpose of this training is to meet the needs of the people in the field and meet the approval of the federal government.

With no further business to come before the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission, Chair Cammack adjourned the meeting at 2:35pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan M. Pinette
Staff

Meeting Schedule

<u>Tuesday, September 12th</u>	ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION	Florian Hall	1:00pm
<u>Monday, October 2nd</u>	MEETING	Florian Hall	1:00pm
<u>Monday, November 6th</u>	MEETING	Florian Hall	1:00pm
<u>Monday, December 4th</u>	MEETING	Florian Hall	1:00pm

